

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-28 are all the claims pending in the Application. Claims 9-10 and 22-23 are acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter (Office Action: page 13). Claims 1, 3-8, 11-14, 16-21 and 24-28, however, are rejected.

Rejected claims 1, 3-8, 11-14, 16-21 and 24-28 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Furthermore, allowable claims 9-10 and 22-23 are rewritten in independent form, thereby placing claims 9-10 and 22-23 in condition for immediate allowance.

Additionally, Applicants amend the specification to correct a typographical error, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection to the specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 22, 2003.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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